

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 DOEE-00 /118 W
-----059980 171753Z /46

P 171744Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7920
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 13982

VIENNA FOR USIAEA; ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: EURATOM/IAEA VERIFICATION AGREEMENT AND ENRICH-
MENT PLANT FACILITY ATTACHMENTS: BELGIAN VIEWS

REF: (A) STATE 177666; (B) BRUSSELS 13692

1. EMBOFF, ACCOMPANIED BY USEC/DOE REPRESENTATIVE,
SAW MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC
AFFAIRS FONTAINE JULY 17 TO DISCUSS FACILITY ATTACHMENTS
PROBLEM.
2. FONTAINE SAID THAT BELGIUM'S PROBLEMS WITH IAEA VERIFI-
CATION AND FACILITY ATTACHMENTS REQUIREMENTS WERE THREE-
FOLD:

(A) IAEA REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BALANCE AREA
(MBA) GENERAL SURVEYS;

(B) KEY INSPECTION POINTS--BELGIUM AGREES TO SIX SUCH
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POINTS WHILE IAEA IS REQUESTING EIGHT; AND

(C) DUPLICATION OF EURATOM AND IAEA INSPECTIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO FONTAINE, POINT 2(B) ABOVE IS THE KEY
POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN IAEA AND EURATOM,
BUT HE BELIEVES THEY ARE CLOSE TO RESOLUTION ON IT.

FONTAINE CONFIRMED TO US THAT PRIMARY BELGIAN CONCERN IS FOR THE SAFETY OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. BELGIANS HE CONTINUED, ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY IAEA INSPECTORS ON SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS WHO RETURN IN 2 - 3 YEARS TIME TO THEIR NATIONAL INDUSTRIES.

4. A SECOND BELGIAN PREOCCUPATION IS THE ADDED COST OF OPERATION THAT SUCH INSPECTIONS ENTAIL. FONTAINE SHOWED US PART OF A BELGONUCLEAIRE PAPER CONCLUDING THAT INSPECTIONS ADDED A FULL 22.5 PERCENT TO ITS OPERATING COSTS (BROKEN DOWN AS 5 PERCENT FOR MBA, 11 PERCENT FOR OTHER INSPECTIONS AND 6.5 PERCENT FOR TWO PERMANENT INSPECTORS.) FONTAINE ADVISED US TO TAKE THIS FIGURE WITH A GRAIN OF SALT, BUT SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT INSPECTIONS ADDED SIGNIFICANTLY TO BELGONUCLEAIRE'S COSTS.

5. FONTAINE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THE PRESENT PROBLEM BETWEEN EURATOM AND IAEA OVER FACILITY ATTACHMENTS REFLECTS EURATOM'S (AND GOB'S) BELIEF THAT--WHATEVER IS AGREED UPON--IAEA CAN BE COUNTED ON TO RETURN ASKING FOR STILL MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND EXPENSIVE VERIFICATION MEASURES. CHAMBERS

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